

1 INSP. CHETCUTI: This is Inspector Vince
2 Chetcuti with the San Francisco District Attorney's
3 Office. Today is May 15th, 2017, and the time is
4 10:16 in the morning. I'm conducting a follow-up
5 interview with [REDACTED] regarding case
6 number 160 286 132 which is related to the officer
7 involved shooting that occurred in the 400 block of
8 Shotwell in San Francisco on April 7, 2016. This
9 interview is being conducted at [REDACTED],
10 San Francisco, in the conference room. And
11 Assistance District Attorney Andrew Law is also
12 present. This interview is being recorded with
13 everyone's knowledge and consent. [REDACTED], directing
14 your attention to the events of that day could you
15 please tell us what you remember.

16 [REDACTED]: I was sitting at my desk
17 working and there's always some commotion going on
18 at Shotwell here but that morning we heard—I heard,
19 um, something like, um, oh what did he say? I heard
20 the officer yelling stay on the ground or something
21 to that effect. I don't remember his exact words
22 now. And I ran to the window which is right behind
23 my desk and there were a couple of officers. One
24 was pointing, um, like a red shotgun and one was
25 holding a pistol in his hand and as I looked to the

1 left I saw the homeless person from a sitting
2 position leaping up towards the officers. I think
3 that's where they're saying drop it on the ground,
4 drop it on the ground.

5 He had a knife in his left hand and he started
6 to leap towards the officers and the officer who
7 had the shotgun shot at the homeless person several
8 times and, um, this person did not stay down. He
9 continued to go towards the officers and that's
10 when the other officer I saw him shoot him, shoot
11 the homeless person and the homeless person went
12 down and just blood started coming out of his body.

13 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. So when you heard
14 those comments, something to the effect of stay on
15 the ground, um, you were at your desk at the time?

16 [REDACTED]: Yes.

17 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. And then as you
18 approached the window behind your desk, correct,
19 and you looked down, what did you see exactly?

20 [REDACTED]: I saw the officer with the
21 shotgun who was closest to my building, um, and
22 then another officer who was holding the pistol he
23 was standing closest to the pole, the utility pole
24 outside. Um, I looked to my left and that's when I
25 saw the homeless person leaping up towards them. He

1 was definitely in a sitting position but he had the
2 knife in his hand.

3 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. Do you recall what
4 the knife looked like?

5 [REDACTED]: It was bit. It was a big knife.
6 It was like a big pointy knife that you know sort
7 of went like that.

8 INSP. CHETCUTI: Could you describe it
9 size-wise?

10 [REDACTED]: From my angle I mean it was I
11 know, I don't know, maybe six or seven inches long.
12 It was a long knife.

13 INSP. CHETCUTI: Is that just the blade or
14 the whole thing?

15 [REDACTED]: The blade was big, yeah.

16 ADA LAW: Was it immediately apparent to
17 you that it was a knife?

18 [REDACTED] Yes.

19 INSP. CHETCUTI: Do you recall how it was
20 positioned, that knife?

21 [REDACTED]: In an upward position.

22 INSP. CHETCUTI: When you saw upward in
23 what?

1 [REDACTED]: He had the knife—he was holding
2 the knife by the handle and the knife was pointed
3 up.

4 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. And what part of
5 the body was it—what was the height of that knife
6 if you can recall?

7 [REDACTED]: The height?

8 INSP. CHETCUTI: Do you know how he was
9 holding it or what—how high was he holding it? Was
10 he holding it low ready, do you recall?

11 [REDACTED]: Oh no, it was up. He had it
12 from my angle he had it, it was like this.

13 INSP. CHETCUTI: So you're holding the
14 knife—you're describing it as you're holding the
15 knife point outward, right?

16 [REDACTED]: Yes.

17 INSP. CHETCUTI: And it was—and his arm
18 was what? How was his arm positioned?

19 [REDACTED]: Out a little bit. He was in a
20 seated position it seemed like from my angle
21 because it looked like he was coming up with the
22 knife in his hand like this, not like this but like
23 this.

1 INSP. CHETCUTI: So what you're describing
2 is that basically he was holding the knife in an
3 outward position partially extended.

4 [REDACTED]: Yes.

5 INSP. CHETCUTI: And between his basically
6 his waist and his shoulder, is that fair?

7 [REDACTED]: Uh-huh, yes.

8 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. And when he stood
9 up, um, did you first see how he was sitting?

10 [REDACTED] No.

11 INSP. CHETCUTI: You couldn't see that?

12 [REDACTED]: No.

13 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. And when he leaped
14 up could you describe that for me please?

15 [REDACTED]: If I remember correctly it sort
16 of looked like he was—he could have been in like a
17 maybe a what do you call like a crouching or—

18 INSP. CHETCUTI: Squatting?

19 [REDACTED]: Squatting, yeah, squatting.

20 INSP. CHETCUTI: In a squatting position,
21 okay.

22 [REDACTED]: Squatting or Indian style. I
23 mean he definitely came up off the ground.

24 INSP. CHETCUTI: Could you tell whether or
25 not his but was resting on the ground or was it—

1 [REDACTED]: No, I couldn't see that.

2 INSP. CHETCUTI: You couldn't see that,
3 okay. Where were the officers positioned in
4 reference to his location?

5 [REDACTED]: Oh gosh. Um, they were
6 probably maybe six, seven feet away from him. It
7 seemed like he was right in front of our rollup
8 door, sort of like more so underneath the other
9 window that's closest to the rollup door and the
10 one officer was clearly closest to my window so I
11 don't know, uh, maybe seven feet apart.

12 INSP. CHETCUTI: So you're saying that the
13 person in question here was standing below the
14 window that is closer to the garage door?

15 [REDACTED]: The homeless person, yes.

16 INSP. CHETCUTI: Yeah, the homeless
17 person. And then the officer, uh, which officer is
18 that the person with the shotgun?

19 [REDACTED] With the shotgun, he was
20 closest to me, to my window.

21 INSP. CHETCUTI: Closer to you.

22 [REDACTED]: Yes.

23 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. Where was the other
24 officer?

1 [REDACTED] : He was standing probably maybe
2 four feet away by the utility pole. There's I think
3 two poles there.

4 INSP. CHETCUTI: Was he in front of this
5 other officer? Was he alongside or was he ahead or
6 back?

7 [REDACTED] : He was slightly ahead, yeah,
8 slightly ahead, closer to the street.

9 INSP. CHETCUTI: So slightly ahead, closer
10 to the street.

11 [REDACTED] : Uh-huh.

12 INSP. CHETCUTI: On the sidewalk.

13 [REDACTED] : Yes.

14 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. And what can you
15 tell me—how were they positioned with reference to
16 their weapons?

17 [REDACTED] : How were?

18 INSP. CHETCUTI: How were they holding
19 their weapons, could you tell at the time?

20 [REDACTED] : Gosh, yeah they were both out,
21 aimed at the homeless person.

22 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay.

23 [REDACTED] : And I saw this shotgun being
24 shot at—at the homeless person. At the time I
25 didn't know it was just, uh, bullet bags or—

1 INSP. CHETCUTI: Beanbags.

2 [REDACTED]: Beanbags.

3 INSP. CHETCUTI: And how did you know that
4 he was shooting that?

5 [REDACTED]: Oh, I heard it, I saw him do
6 it, yeah.

7 INSP. CHETCUTI: Did you see anything
8 after you heard that with reference to the-

9 [REDACTED]: No, at that time I turned away
10 from the window I thought oh my God. And then I
11 looked back and, um, and that's when the other
12 officer shot at the homeless person, the guy with
13 the pistol, the officer with the pistol.

14 INSP. CHETCUTI: Was that--how soon after
15 that?

16 [REDACTED]: I don't know. I don't know the
17 timing.

18 INSP. CHETCUTI: And what was the distance
19 that the homeless--where was the homeless at this
20 point, the homeless person at this point?

21 [REDACTED]: He was--he was leaping at them
22 so he was our building to the sidewalk where the
23 sidewalk meets the street. I don't know, maybe six,
24 seven feet.

1 INSP. CHETCUTI: So he was—he had moved
2 about seven feet from his initial position?

3 [REDACTED]: No, the homeless person did not
4 move, no. I mean I saw him leaping towards the
5 officers and that's when they—but he did not—I
6 don't think he made it to his feet to actually take
7 a step. He was if I can—I mean he was actually
8 getting up like this.

9 INSP. CHETCUTI: So he was in motion, he
10 was in the process of getting up you're saying?

11 [REDACTED] Yes.

12 INSP. CHETCUTI: From his seated position
13 when he was shot?

14 [REDACTED]: Yes.

15 INSP. CHETCUTI: And is that shot by the
16 beanbag or shot by the live rounds?

17 [REDACTED]: By the pistol, yes, and then
18 after he was shot it seemed like he continued to go
19 towards them with the knife and he was shot again.

20 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. And when he was
21 shot again what was the distance? Now how much has
22 he travelled?

23 [REDACTED]: Um, probably just two feet.

24 INSP. CHETCUTI: About two feet. And which
25 direction was he heading?

1 [REDACTED]: Oh, towards the police officer
2 with the pistol.

3 INSP. CHETCUTI: Towards the police--okay.

4 And at this point did the police officer with the
5 pistol move or do anything else?

6 [REDACTED]: I don't know if he moved. I was
7 looking at the gentleman behind shot.

8 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay, what happened after
9 he was shot?

10 [REDACTED]: He fell on his back and just
11 blood started coming out.

12 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. And when he fell on
13 his back how was he positioned? Where was his head?
14 Was his head in reference to was it closer to the
15 building or closest to the sidewalk?

16 [REDACTED]: No, his head was closest to the
17 sidewalk.

18 INSP. CHETCUTI: So closest to the
19 sidewalk.

20 [REDACTED]: Uh-huh.

21 INSP. CHETCUTI: And were you able to see
22 the knife at this point still?

23 [REDACTED]: It fell out of his hand. Where
24 it went I don't know. I don't know at that point. I
25 was just in shock.

1 INSP. CHETCUTI: Sure. What happened after
2 that?

3 [REDACTED]: Oh, I turned away, I couldn't
4 watch that anymore.

5 INSP. CHETCUTI: Do you recall how many
6 times the officer with the pistol shot?

7 [REDACTED]: No, no I don't remember how
8 many.

9 INSP. CHETCUTI: Do you recall what you
10 heard?

11 [REDACTED]: Maybe three.

12 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay.

13 [REDACTED]: Yeah, maybe three and then of
14 course we looked out the window later when they
15 had—when they took his clothes off. You could just
16 see the bullet holes in his body.

17 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. And how soon after
18 that? How soon after he hit the ground did they
19 remove his clothes?

20 [REDACTED]: Oh, I don't know, it had been I
21 don't know, that part I don't know the timing of
22 it.

23 INSP. CHETCUTI: So after he was shot and
24 hit the ground what did you do?

25 [REDACTED]: I turned away from the window.

1 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. And did you remain
2 where you were at?

3 : Pretty much. I was like—I was
4 short of breath and started to cry. It was just
5 very emotional. I'd never seen that before.

6 INSP. CHETCUTI: Absolutely. Um, who was
7 standing next to you at the time if anybody?

8 : There was a couple people who
9 was there. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] they were at their own
10 desk but by me I don't remember who was by me.

11 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. Do you recall
12 whether or not during the shooting the officers
13 moved or relocated their positions?

14 : It didn't seem like it. It
15 didn't seem like it. I didn't seem like they moved,
16 no, if I remember correctly.

17 INSP. CHETCUTI: All right. And based on
18 what you observed you observed the homeless person
19 moving in the direction of the officers.

20 : Yes.

21 INSP. CHETCUTI: And you were saying that
22 basically he was moving in the direction of the
23 officer with the pistol.

24 : Yes.

1 INSP. CHETCUTI: Who at this point was
2 located where?

3 [REDACTED]: He was standing by the utility
4 pole.

5 INSP. CHETCUTI: And that distance between
6 the homeless and the officer was how much would you
7 estimate?

8 [REDACTED]: Maybe seven feet.

9 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. And at that point
10 where you able to see where the other officer was?

11 [REDACTED]: He was closer to the building,
12 closer to my window.

13 INSP. CHETCUTI: Facing?

14 [REDACTED]: Facing the homeless person with
15 the shotgun.

16 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. Um, and what was
17 his distance from the homeless person?

18 [REDACTED]: It was about the same, just a
19 different angle.

20 INSP. CHETCUTI: Just a different angle,
21 okay. Did you recall hearing anything while the
22 shooting was taking place?

23 [REDACTED]: No.

24 INSP. CHETCUTI: What about before the
25 shooting?

1 [REDACTED]: Before they were just yelling
2 at him. If I remember correctly they were saying
3 drop it on the ground. I think that was my original
4 statement, drop it on the ground.

5 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay, what was your
6 impression when you saw the homeless person moving,
7 what was—what ran through your mind?

8 [REDACTED]: I was thinking what is he
9 doing? That's what I was thinking, what is he
10 doing. We have seen him before, he wasn't a
11 stranger to this street. He was always courteous to
12 people who drove in and out of our building, um,
13 because he would always kick his soccer ball around
14 up against the door and the wall and when, um, our
15 field personnel would drive in and out he would
16 always stop for them and move.

17 INSP. CHETCUTI: Did you ever talk to him?

18 [REDACTED]: No. Other—other people have.

19 INSP. CHETCUTI: Do you remember like who?

20 [REDACTED]: No. I don't recall said that
21 but I was—it was just shocking to see him in that
22 state because he just seemed like a nice person
23 from what we observed, a nice homeless person if
24 that's such a thing.

1 INSP. CHETCUTI: Have you been following
2 the story in the media?

3 : Only—I mean I don't research it
4 but people come and they've set up a memorial, they
5 pray and, um, I haven't been following it in the
6 media just what they do on the sidewalk here.

7 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay.

8 : You know, the media comes and
9 people are still saying that, uh, the officers shot
10 him, they have witnesses that say he didn't have a
11 weapon but he did have a weapon and he was leaping
12 towards them and I don't understand why these
13 people are lying.

14 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay, well, I appreciate
15 you being honest.

16 : Yeah.

17 INSP. CHETCUTI: Thank you for doing that.
18 Let me kind of go over my notes. Andrew, do you
19 have anything? Do you have any questions?

20 ADA LAW: Sure. Could you hear—you
21 mentioned that you could hear some of what the
22 officers were saying. How clear were the commands?

23 INSP. CHETCUTI: Oh, it was very clear.

24 ADA LAW: You can hear a lot of street
25 noise from the window?

1 INSP. CHETCUTI: Yes.

2 ADA LAW: Did you hear the person we've
3 been referring to as the homeless person say
4 anything?

5 INSP. CHETCUTI: No.

6 ADA LAW: Did you go down to the street
7 after this incident happened?

8 [REDACTED]: No.

9 ADA LAW: Did you talk to anyone about
10 this incident aside from the two Homicide
11 detectives?

12 [REDACTED]: No, just my coworkers in the
13 officer.

14 ADA LAW: Which coworkers did you discuss
15 this with?

16 [REDACTED]: It was [REDACTED] and
17 [REDACTED], my [REDACTED], um, and then later in
18 the day when the 1:00 o'clock shift started some of
19 those people. There was an EAP rep that was onsite
20 pretty quickly.

21 ADA LAW: Aside from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED] did anyone else observe this incident
23 happen from the window near your desk?

24 [REDACTED]: I don't believe so.

1 ADA LAW: To your knowledge did anyone
2 else at [REDACTED] witness this incident besides [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]?
4 [REDACTED]: No.
5 ADA LAW: You mentioned at a certain point
6 you walked back to your desk, did I hear that
7 correctly?
8 [REDACTED]: I walked away from the window,
9 didn't sit down, I just walked away.
10 ADA LAW: When did that--when did you walk
11 away or sit down?
12 [REDACTED]: Oh, after--after they shot him.
13 ADA LAW: You've mentioned that--I guess
14 how long after they shot him how much of this did
15 you observe after the person fell from the gunshot?
16 [REDACTED]: I don't recall how much time.
17 We were back and forth to the window after he got
18 shot. It wasn't a nice scene especially after, um,
19 I guess they were paramedics that came and you know
20 took his clothes off and tried to work on him,
21 yeah.
22 ADA LAW: So you were--am I understanding
23 you correctly that you would--you didn't view this
24 continuously after the shooting.
25 [REDACTED]: Correct.

1 ADA LAW: After you went back to your desk
2 and then you went back to the window.

3 [REDACTED]: Yes.

4 ADA LAW: How many times did you do that
5 approximately?

6 [REDACTED]: Oh gosh quite a bit.

7 ADA LAW: Did you see a paramedic arrive?

8 [REDACTED]: I did not see them arrive. It
9 was probably at a time when I was not at the
10 window, yeah.

11 ADA LAW: Based on your observations you
12 said that the person was going toward the officers.

13 [REDACTED]: Uh-huh.

14 ADA LAW: What did you interpret that? How
15 did you interpret that based on what you—just on
16 your observations?

17 [REDACTED]: That there—there's something
18 wrong with him. And when I think about it now maybe
19 he wanted to die or maybe he was on drugs, to
20 approach an officer who—two officers—who were
21 obviously had weapons on him, you know, why would
22 he do that? You're not going to win with a knife
23 versus a gun.

24 ADA LAW: Did you believe that he was
25 going directly towards the officers?

1 [REDACTED] : Yes.

2 ADA LAW: Or in their general direction?

3 [REDACTED] : Yes.

4 ADA LAW: Did you see this person at any
5 time try to run away from the officers?

6 [REDACTED] : No.

7 INSP. CHETCUTI: And I just want to
8 confirm that you viewed the entire incident
9 continuously from the time that you approached the
10 window during the—when the shooting started you
11 watched the entire thing.

12 [REDACTED] : Yes.

13 INSP. CHETCUTI: You did, okay.

14 [REDACTED] : Yes.

15 INSP. CHETCUTI: And at that point do you
16 recall seeing, uh, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in the same area
17 or watching out the window as well?

18 [REDACTED] : Um, I wasn't exactly sure which
19 one of them saw as much as me. I don't know if they
20 saw everything.

21 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. And how close were
22 you to the window?

23 [REDACTED] : Oh, I was right up against the
24 window.

1 INSP. CHETCUTI: So you were--okay, right
2 up against the window. And how much of the sidewalk
3 were you able to see from where you were at?

4 : Um, well you can't see all the
5 sidewalk, um, maybe ninety percent of it.

6 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay, all right.

7 ADA LAW: At the--and I know this was an
8 unpleasant thing to see but when the shooting
9 happened did you hear--did you say anything to your
10 colleagues or did you hear them say anything?

11 : Oh, I just said oh my God they
12 shot him, they shot, oh my God. And I just turned
13 away from the window.

14 ADA LAW: Did you hear your coworkers say
15 anything?

16 : No.

17 ADA LAW: Did you ever talk to your
18 coworkers about what you observed as compared to
19 what they saw?

20 : A little bit. Yeah we did I
21 just don't remember, um, exactly what they said. I
22 don't remember what.

23 ADA LAW: What about what you said to
24 them?

25 : Did I tell them everything?

1 ADA LAW: Did you tell them what you saw?

2 I'm talking about maybe [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]?

3 [REDACTED]: Yeah, I'm pretty sure I did.

4 ADA LAW: Okay. And do you remember what
5 they said to you about what they saw or heard?

6 [REDACTED]: I don't remember.

7 ADA LAW: Okay, do you remember what you
8 told them?

9 [REDACTED]: Not verbatim. Um, no. I don't
10 remember.

11 ADA LAW: Did you provide any specific
12 details about positioning or anything like that?

13 [REDACTED]: I think I might have—I don't
14 remember my exact words to them. But we did talk
15 about it. They had a different angle. I don't think
16 that they were at the window the same time I was
17 when, um, when the shotgun was first fired. Maybe
18 I'm nosier, I don't know. [laughs] But I think,
19 yeah I think maybe [REDACTED] saw the shotgun, I'm not
20 quite sure.

21 ADA LAW: Okay, all right. Um, did you
22 have that conversation with them before the police
23 interviewed you?

24 [REDACTED]: Yeah, I think we did.

25 ADA LAW: Okay.

1 [REDACTED]: It took—it took them a while to
2 get upstairs.

3 ADA LAW: Okay. And do you think anything
4 that they might have said influenced your
5 perspective in any way?

6 [REDACTED]: No, no I don't even remember
7 what they saw, what they said they saw.

8 ADA LAW: Okay, all right, thank you.

9 INSP. CHETCUTI: And just so we're clear
10 you mentioned that the person that we've been
11 referring to as a homeless person had the knife
12 pointed out.

13 [REDACTED]: Uh-huh.

14 INSP. CHETCUTI: The person had the knife
15 when the officers shot him?

16 [REDACTED]: Yes.

17 INSP. CHETCUTI: And then after he was
18 shot that's when you saw the knife drop?

19 [REDACTED] I didn't see it drop. I just
20 saw him, you know, leap towards them. He got shot,
21 he—and I don't remember what happened to the knife
22 at that point, I just remember him falling down. I
23 turned away. That's when I was saying oh my God
24 they shot him. And when I went back to the window
25 that's, you know, blood was coming out and—but I

1 don't recall exactly what happened with that knife
2 after he was shot.

3 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay. I have nothing
4 else.

5 ADA LAW: Can we go take a look, um—
6 [REDACTED]: Yeah, from my angle?

7 ADA LAW: From your angle, yeah.

8 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

9 ADA LAW: Why don't we do that.

10 INSP. CHETCUTI: Okay, at this point I'll
11 go ahead and end the interview. The time is 10:43.

12 **END OF DOCUMENT**